

middle TOWN NEWS letter

March 2021

Town Meeting 2021

Our first-ever virtual Informational Meeting was well attended, and many thoughtful questions were asked and answered. The advance work of the Town Meeting subcommittee was evident in the postings, election newsletters, and town-wide mailer. Kudos to the tech team behind the scenes at the meeting: Beth Miller and Meredith Morgan. Thanks as always to the committed team of poll workers and elections officials who made voting day go well, and to the 352 Middletown Springs voters who made their positions known.

There were three contested town positions in the elections. Those outcomes were:

- **Town Clerk:** Patty Kenyon 227, Laura Castle 117
- **Town Treasurer:** Jenny Talke Munyak 249, Ryan Decelle 93
- **Select Board 3-year:** Robin Chesnut-Tangerman 193, Carl Haynes 153

The uncontested races were: Kimberly Bushnell (Moderator), Debra House (Delinquent Tax Collector), Terry Redfield (Select Board 2-year), Bill Reed (Road Commissioner), Sally Achey (Lister), Sarah Grimm (Auditor), Kelley Beckwith (Library Trustee), and Rita Hansen (Copeland Church Fund).

All the Middletown Springs ballot articles passed. The Town and Highway Budgets passed by roughly a 2:1 margin. A full list of ballot items and tallies is on the Middletown Springs website.

The Wells Springs School District budget passed 255-156, and the capital improvement reserve fund was approved 240-139. The officers and board members election results: Eric Montbriand (Wells/uncontested), Ryan Decelle (Middletown Springs/uncontested), and Meredith Morgan (at-large, defeating Sue Burke 324-132), Eric Montbriand (Moderator), Tammy Holcomb (Treasurer), and Nora Sargent (Clerk).

Maple Festival “Targeted Raffle”

The 2021 Maple Festival event will be a targeted version of the Maple Festival Raffle with 95 prizes, thanks to the generosity of donors. The items or services can be viewed on the [Historical Society's website](#).



Raffle tickets can be printed from the website and filled out with the number of the targeted item. Winners for each item will be drawn from a pool of all tickets marked with that item number. Tickets without targeted numbers will be entered into a general raffle.

Tickets cost \$5, or \$20 for five. They should be filled out, with payment by check made out to “Middletown Springs Historical Society” or “MSHS” and returned by mail to: MSHS, PO Box 1121, Middletown Springs, VT 05757

The Maple Raffle will close on Saturday, March 20, 2021. All return envelopes must be post marked by Saturday, March 20. The drawing will be held on March 23.

Middletown Springs Historical Society is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit and donations are tax exempt to the extent of the law. For more information, or to have raffle tickets, a numbered list of raffle prizes, and a return envelope mailed or emailed to you, call: David Wright 235-2376 or Pat Hemenway 235-2421

We sincerely thank you!

MSHS Board of Trustees

Though these words are hardly enough, we wish to recognize and thank Laura Castle for her decades of service to our town.

NOTES to the Community

On behalf of the Wells Springs School board, we would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to the community members of Middletown Springs and Wells for their continued support of our schools by voting "Yes" in support of our school budget for the 2021-2022 academic year. We have worked very hard to be fiscally responsible without eliminating opportunities and resources for our students. Your ongoing support will allow us to continue to offer high-quality education and programming for our children. In addition, we will continue to explore ways in which to adapt and find creative solutions to the financial pressures of delivering a personalized education and diverse programming to our students. It is encouraging to see our taxpayers come out in support of the Wells Springs schools, staff members, and students. Thanks!

Wells Springs School Board Members

Amanda Weeden, Courtney Bishop, Clarence Haynes, Eric Montbriand, George Gonda, Meredith Morgan, and Ryan DeCelle

To Middletown Springs Voters,

Thank you for your support for me on Town Meeting Day. I truly appreciate your votes. I look forward to serving the community for another three years.

Cheers!

Jenny Talke Munyak

Thank You

I would like to thank the voters for their support! I am grateful and humbled by your votes and faith in my abilities. I look forward to learning the ropes and working to bring the town's records and services into the digital age. Heather Grier will continue in her role as Assistant Clerk and will be an invaluable asset to helping us all make the transition.

I know you all join me in extending my extreme gratitude to Laura Castle for her many years of dedicated and tireless service to the town.

Patty Kenyon

Register Your Dog(s)

Reminder from the Town Clerk: it's time to register your dogs. 2021 licenses for dogs 6 months or older are due on or before **April 1**. After April 1 there is an increase of 50% to the fee. The fees are:

- neutered male or spayed female is \$8
 - non-neutered male or female is \$12
-

NEW Town Office Hours

Please note: The town office will have new open hours starting Monday, March 8. The office will be open:

Monday & Tuesday	9am - 4pm
Thursday & Friday	1pm - 4pm

There will no longer be regularly scheduled Saturday hours. Please plan accordingly. Due to COVID-19 protocols there are office occupancy limits. We ask all researchers to make appointments ahead of time. Appointments during non-business hours are available as well. To make an appointment call or email, 235-2220 (Town Office), 235-2707 (home), middletown@vermontel.net, pmhkenyon@vermontel.net

Patty Kenyon
Town Clerk

Correction to Copeland Memorial Church Fund

Please disregard the bolded last line in the Copeland Memorial Church Fund report in the Town Report. The ending balances are correctly noted on the next line up and are as follows: Jan.- June 2018 \$243,191.78, FY 2019 \$143,273.63 and FY 2020 \$136,364.17.





National Sleep Awareness Week – March 14-20

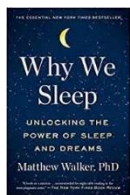
Get Some Sleep!

Sleep plays a vital role in good health and well-being. Getting enough quality sleep can help protect your mental health, physical health, quality of life, and safety.

The damage from sleep deficiency can occur in an instant (such as a car crash), or it can harm you over time. It also can affect how well you think, react, work, learn, and get along with others.

- From the National Institutes of Health

From the Library shelves:



Why We Sleep: unlocking the power of sleep and dreams by Matthew P. Walker

Looking for a bedtime story?

Good night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod by Eugene Field

Sleep tight, Ginger Kitten by Adáele Geras

Going to Sleep on the Farm by Wendy Cheyette Lewison

I Am Not Going to Get Up Today! by Dr. Seuss

The Napping House by Audrey Wood

Good night, Baby Bear by Frank Asch

Thanks for the Good Time



Thank you, Vicki, for hosting the Library's annual Blind Date with a Book at the Store this year. 64 books went on "dates." Was it love at first sight? Maybe not. But there is always a little thrill when taking a chance on a book.

Happy Reading!

Property Tax Payment Due

Property Tax payments for the third quarter for 2020/2021 are due **before or on Monday, March 15**. Due to continuing caution and regulations regarding Covid-19, tax payments will be accepted **ONLY** as follows:

1. MAIL to PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs, VT 05757 (with a 3/15/21 or earlier postmark).
2. DROP BOX on the **outside** of the Town Office by the end of the day of 3/15/21.

Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a receipt.

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE TOWN OFFICE
TO REMIT TAXES.

Tax payments received or postmarked after March 15, 2021 will incur a late fee of 1% for 3 months and 1.5% thereafter until paid.

Stay safe and healthy.

Jenny Talke Munyak
Town Treasurer

Tax Bills for Tax Time

As it is income tax filing season, the following is a gentle but firm reminder from the Town Office:

It is the property owner's responsibility to provide a copy of their tax bill to their accountant or tax service; it is NOT the responsibility of the Town Treasurer or the Town Clerk to do this.

All taxpayers should have received copies of your Property Tax Bills – they were mailed to you in August, or they were provided to you during your property purchase closing. Please make the effort to locate your bill and communicate with your tax service directly.

And please, when you receive your new tax bill in August 2021, **save it for easy access** for next year's income tax season.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Jenny Talke Munyak
Town Treasurer

NEW to the Library in February

These titles were added to the Collection in February. Designated Books (*) were purchased with a generous donation from the Friends of the Library. Others were donated by readers in the community. Thank you kindly!

Films

McFarland USA (movie)

Fiction

The Mystery of Mrs. Christie by Marie Benedict*

The Sentinel by Lee Child and Andrew Child*

Evie Drake Starts Over by Linda Holmes*

The Chanel Sisters by Judith Little*

A Children's Bible by Lydia Millet*

What Are You Going Through by Sigrid Nunez*

From a Low and Quiet Sea by Donal Ryan

The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle by Stuart Turton*

Non-Fiction

The Third Rainbow Girl by Emma Copley Eisenberg*

Spying on the South - An Odyssey Across the American Divide by Tony Horwitz*

Wintering - The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times by Katherine May*

Peterson Field Guide to Animal Tracks by Murie & Elbroch*

Young Adult

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds*

Children's

The Apple Pie that Papa Baked by Lauren Thompson

Knuckleboom Loaders Load Logs by Joyce Slayton Mitchell

Town Phone Directory

Extra copies of the 2018-2020 Town Directory (with the light blue cover) are still available at the Library. If you are new to town, please stop by for your complimentary copy. If you have already received a copy but would like another, additional copies may be purchased for \$2.

While the next edition of the Directory will not come out for several years, Kimberly at the Library continually accepts changes and updates.

Library Seed Swap

The Annual Seed Swap will be open for business later this month.

We again have donations from Biondi's Florist & Greenhouses and High Mowing Seeds to supplement our swap. Because of increased interest in gardening (yay!), supplies are limited. We have envelopes for you to divide packets into, so that you can take what you will use.

Contributing your extra seeds is great, but not required. We welcome any extra seeds you have to share. The more we cross-pollinate, so to speak, the richer the community.

Melissa, the seed maven

Health and Wellness

Information from Vermont Department of Health
Take Care of Your Emotional and Mental Health

If you or someone you know is in crisis or needs emotional support, help is available 24/7:

- Call your local mental health crisis line.
- Text VT to 741741 to talk with someone at the Crisis Text Line.
- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.
- For more info visit healthvermont.gov/suicide.
- Get connected to Alcohol and Drug Support Services at VT Helplink.
- Get self-help tips and connect to mental health services at COVID Support VT.

Blue Winter

Winter uses all the blues there are.

One shade of blue for water, one for ice,
Another blue for shadows over snow.

The clear or cloudy sky uses blue twice-

Both different blues. And hills row after row

Are colored blue according to how far.

You know the bluejay's double-blur device

Shows best when there are no green leaves to show.

And Sirius is a winter bluegreen star.

- Robert Francis 1901-1987

Calendar of Events

In response to Governor Phil Scott's order to minimize gatherings, the Middletown Springs Select Board has encouraged all Town boards and committees to meet only for urgent decisions. This may mean that some regularly scheduled meetings are cancelled or postponed, while others are held at their normal time and place but with electronic participation rather than in-person attendance. Please check with the following people to see whether a meeting will be held at its usual time and place, and the preferred method for remote participation.

Regular Meeting Schedule & Chair or Contact Person

Conservation Commission	2 nd Thurs	Elizabeth Cooper
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues	Joe Castle
First Response	3 rd Sun	Carl Haynes
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2 nd Wed	Ashley Fioretti
Historical Society	1 st Thurs	David Wright
Library Trustees	4 th Wed	Kristal Hier
Planning Commission	1 st Mon	Hilary Solomon
Select Board	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	Terry Redfield
Town Facilities Planning	1 st & 3 rd Thurs	Terry Redfield
Wells Springs School Board	1 st Wed	Clarence Haynes

When public meetings do occur, those present must wear masks or facial coverings, and meeting organizers must set up the meeting space so that the recommended six feet of distance is maintained between participants.

The Vermont Secretary of State has updated, temporary guidelines for boards & committees to comply with **Vermont Open Meeting Laws**. You can find more information at <https://sos.vermont.gov/secretarys-desk/commentary/updated-covid-19-impacts-and-considerations-for-open-meeting-law/>.

Town Newsletter

Lots of information in a snippet & list format, plus a Calendar of Events. No ads, articles, or minutes.

This supplements and enhances the Town website & Front Porch Forum (FPF) and will serve the needs of those who don't regularly use computers.

Digital copies are available as a PDF. The PDF is posted on FPF and the Town website or is sent free via email to those who sign up. It is also available in hard copy, delivered by USPS, to those who subscribe for \$6 a year postage. Copies are posted at the Town Office, Grant's Village Store, and the Library.

Have questions? Call 235-2435, or email: middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com to reach Kimberly and Melissa at the Library.

Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library
middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com
PO Box 1206
Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Deadline: 25th of the month

Front Porch Forum

Join Front Porch Forum to know what is happening between issues of the middleTOWN NEWSletter. It's free. It's local. And it's friendly. Check it out at <https://frontporchforum.com/>.